

January 28, 2014

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554

RE: California Telehealth Network
HCP 17211 Denial of Eligibility for 29 Entities

This letter supports the appeal by the California Telehealth Network (CTN) of the denial of 29 healthcare provider sites to participate in the Healthcare Connect Fund (HCF). Access El Dorado (ACCEL) urgently requests that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reverse this decision to allow non-rural healthcare providers that are not Federally Qualified Health Centers or HRSA designated Community Health Centers to participate consistent with the previous practices implemented under the Rural Health Care Pilot Program (RHCPP). ACCEL supports the participation of these healthcare providers as an integral part of the emerging broadband enabled healthcare delivery system CTN provides in the State of California.

ACCEL strongly supports the CTN consortium and understands the importance of the participation of rural and non-rural healthcare providers in the delivery of broadband enabled healthcare services. Non-rural healthcare organizations are vital to the sustainability and provision of specialty care and other vital resources to the rural communities of California.

As a rural healthcare collaborative we have seen significant improvement in access to care throughout our county since the adoption of broadband enabled telehealth at our partner sites. Some of these sites are not designated as rural but are integral to providing care to thousands of residents in our 1700 square mile county.

We strongly urge the FCC to move quickly to reinstate the eligibility of these healthcare providers consistent with previous RHCPP practices.

Sincerely,

Jonathan W. Lehrman, M.D.

Jonathan Lehrman
Medical Director & Chairman
Access El Dorado